Title: Need to make optimum utilization of newly laid Broad Gauge line between Virudhnagar junction and Tenkasi by introducing more trains.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (SIVAKASI): Sir, the newly laid 98 km Broad Gauge line between Virudhnagar junction to Tenkasi is under-utilized. The train No. 2661 (Podhigai Express) running between Chennai Egmore and Tenkasi is a weekly train, as there are a number of commercial and tourist centres on this route like Sivakasi, Rajapalayam and Coutrallam. The train should be made to run daily and introduce Tenkasi−Virudhnagar morning passenger train to satisfy the demand of the area.

The train starts at 5 p.m. every Saturday from Chennai and reaches Sivakasi and Rajapalayam at 2.20 a.m. and 3.15 a.m. respectively which is too early. The main users of this train are people of this city, therefore, the train timings should be rescheduled in such a way that it reaches by 5 a.m. The need for an extra stoppage at Thirutangal should also be considered.
Virudhnagar−Manamadurai gauge conversion should be completed earlier; it will be useful for the large number of Rameswaram-bound devotees from the southern districts of Tamil Nadu.